

STOURBRIDGE

the chronicle

New chapter

Driving instructor writes guide book for learners

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Flying high

Aviation pioneer was one of Britain's greatest

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Winning run

Stourbridge triumph twice on trot

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Drama at election as Labour sweeps in

LABOUR swept to power in Dudley in a dramatic election night which significantly changed the political landscape of the borough. The party took full control of Dudley Council after the Tories lost 13 seats - 12 to Labour and one to the Green Party.

And among the political big hitters to lose their seats in the election shake-up was cabinet member for housing Councillor Adrian Turner.

Councillor Turner, who has represented Lye and Stourbridge West, was beaten in the polls by Labour's Tremaine Herbert.

Speaking after the count, Councillor Turner said: "I was not expected to win four years ago so I have exceeded all expectations."

"I want to thank everyone who supported me and would like to praise the staff of Dudley Council for all their hard work over the years."

Suffered

Long-standing Wordsley Councillor Geoffrey Southall also lost his seat last week after Labour's Derek Hemingsley polled 1,293 votes.

Former council leader Les Jones retained his Pedmore and Stourbridge East seat but had to watch as his party suffered serious losses.

Councillor Jones, who led the council for a year, said the Tories would regroup and monitor the now ruling Labour group "very closely" while in opposition.

He admitted the party had expected to make "some losses" but not to the extent it had suffered.

"It has been a bad night. However do not count out the Dudley Conservative group. We will be back," he said.

"However for the time being this means all the plans we have made will have to be put on hold."

Labour group leader Councillor David Sparks said he was "delighted" his party was back in control of Dudley Council.

● Swing - Page 2

PARTY OVER AS AXE FALLS ON FUN DAY

A COMMUNITY fun day in Stourbridge that attracts thousands of people has been axed after the company behind it announced it was folding.

Stourbridge and Black Country Events, also known as S&B Events Ltd, staged the last Party in the Park at Mary Stevens Park, on Monday. And bosses confirmed it would not be held again unless another company or community group decided to take it on in the future.

Groups who performed at this week's event, which attracted more than 5,000 people, said the loss was "very sad".

Bosses from S&B Events Ltd said they had decided to dissolve the company because of the "high financial risk" placed on members to stage events.

Mike Atwood, chairman of the company, which launched in 2004, said they had only decided to go ahead with this year's Party in the Park at the last minute and had been on the brink of cancelling it due to severe weather reports.

"Thankfully we were able to go ahead and people did turn up despite rainstorms during the day," he said.

"However had this not happened myself and the other two members of the company could have been personally liable for up to £18,000 to cover costs.

"This is just something which cannot be sustained. There is also a great degree of stress in organising events on this scale. Unless

By Lee Watton

someone else wants to take it up the Party in the Park will not continue. Even if an event happens in the future it will not be organised by us."

Spokesman for the Natasha Hansell School of Dance Tia Priest said everyone had been sad to hear it was the last Party in the Park. School members performed at the bi-annual event on Monday.

She said: "This event was an opportunity for our pupils to perform in front of a wider audience and offered them a showcase for their skills. For everyone who had a stall there it was a chance to reach out to customers they may not have access to otherwise. It is very sad this event has come to an end and once last chance or organisations to boost their trade or show off their skills."

● Pictures - page 4

Sunday market mooted

MARKETS could be held on a Sunday in Dudley if a bid for help from retail guru Mary Portas is successful. Specialist stalls selling continental or fresh food would line the high street if it scoops £100,000 and becomes a "Portas Pilot".

Other plans for the cash include providing shop units for young entrepreneurs who are starting out, and ploughing money into existing firms that need help.



Party in the Park draws in Bank Holiday crowds to Mary Stevens Park, Love Lane, Stourbridge

Tesco jobs are sought by 250

MORE than 250 people have already inquired about jobs at a new Black Country supermarket before the store has been built.

Tesco will open a branch in Stourbridge as part of a £50 million redevelopment project, by Christmas next year.

It will generate around 320 new jobs for the town and is being built on the site of the former Crown Centre, which is currently being demolished. Supermarket bosses said they had received more than 250 people had expressed an interest in working at the.

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: "The Stourbridge store will generate around 320 new jobs. We've had over 250 expressions of interest in taking one of the roles - which is fantastic. We normally start our recruitment around four months before a new store opens and always advertise our vacancies through Job Centre Plus.

"Our jobs are very popular as we offer flexible hours and an industry leading rate of pay with great benefits. Many of our senior colleagues started out working on the shop floor as we like to give people the opportunity to develop their careers."

Work to knock down the Crown Centre began in March and the historic mosaic, featuring Stourbridge's coat of arms, and commemorative clock were removed for safe keeping. They will be both incorporated into the new supermarket and shopping centre development.

Only a few walls of the Crown Centre now remain. Once the demolition work is completed, preparation work for a 543-space underground car park will get under way before construction work on the new supermarket begins.

The nearby multi-storey car park in Bell Street was brought down using explosives on the morning of April 1.

About 30kg of high-speed explosives were put inside the ailing concrete car park by demolition experts.

Drowned horse had its hooves bound up

A YOUNG horse that may have been drowned was found "dumped like rubbish" with its hooves tied together in the gateway to a field near Stourbridge.

The RSPCA was called to the grim discovery, in Western Road, Hagley.

The mainly black pony, which had a white tuft along its back and a tiny amount of white in its tail, was described by the RSPCA inspector as being very thin and generally in a poor condition.

The RSPCA is now appealing for information from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious happening in Western Road or who may know the identity of the owner of the pony.

"The pony may have been drowned - or because it was in a poor condition it could have collapsed and fallen into water and been submerged for some time," said RSPCA inspector Adrian Langley.

Distressing

"It was very distressing to see a horse in that condition - it was very muddy, wet and with its feet tied together."

"There was some webbing material around its neck, which could indicate it was kept as a tethered pony. It's possible that someone tried to drag it out of water by tying the feet together."

He appealed to anyone who may have seen a large vehicle close to the gateway either early on Saturday or, possibly, overnight, or anyone who may know who owned the pony, to contact the RSPCA's national cruelty and advice line on 0300 1234 999.

West Mercia Police also received several calls from people reporting that they had seen the dead horse in Western Road, just off the A491 M5 feeder road, at about 8.30am on Saturday. Police reported the matter to Bromsgrove District Council and the Environment Agency, which is now investigating it as an illegal dumping activity.

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Surprise election results see a big swing to Labour



Staff hard at work counting the votes before the surprise result was announced



Councillor Adrian Turner at the count

LABOUR has seized power in Dudley after winning 12 seats in a devastating defeat for the ruling Conservative group.

The party now has a clear majority of 11 seats having previously been well behind the Tories.

Former council leader Les Jones retained his Pedmore and Stourbridge East seat with a majority of 660 but had to watch as his party suffered serious losses at the hands of Labour.

He said the party had expected to make "some losses" but not to the extent it suf-

COUNCIL RESULTS 2012

ferred. "It has been a bad night but we will now obviously have to put all of the plans that we have on hold. We will be back," he said. "We will be scrutinising everything that the new ruling Labour group does and will pick ourselves up from this. Do not count out the Dudley Conservative group."

Labour has 41 seats, the Tories have 29 and the Green party also won a seat.

A by-election is yet to be held in the Norton ward following the death of Conserva-

tive councillor Angus Adams last month. New council leader, Labour's David Sparks, said: "Obviously I am really pleased with the result, especially because it was not predicted by many people. It is down to lots of local councillors fighting local issues."

"I am also determined to carry out a review of how the council operates."

Among the key political scalps were former cabinet member for housing Adrian Turner, who lost his Lye and Stourbridge

North seat to Labour's Tremaine Herbert. She won with a poll of 1,241 votes, a majority of 494.

Other long serving members to have lost their seats included Wordsley's Geoffrey Southall who lost out to Labour's Derek Hemingsley.

Mr Hemingsley polled 1,293 votes. Dudley's mayor Councillor Michael Evans retained his seat for the party with 1,383 votes and a majority of 520.

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Thirteen students given offers to study medicine

Hoping for peak fitness



Ron Steventon, Tony Randle, Steve Gordon, Les Meades, Dave Loveland and Roy Steatham from R&P Repairs, Tipton, get set

A GROUP of 12 fundraisers are putting their best foot forward for a gruelling mountain-climbing challenge.

Stourbridge police Sergeant Steve Gordon is taking on the Three Peaks Challenge with Roy Statham, a marathon enthusiast who runs R&P Repairs in Great Bridge, and their friends. The aim is for the group to scale the heights of Ben Nevis,

Scaffell Pike and Mount Snowdon inside 24 hours, including the travel time to take a minibus between the locations.

Mr Gordon, who lives in Eden Close in Tividale, said he had chosen this year, the same as his 50th birthday, especially to test his mountain-scaling mettle. The Sgt said: "We want to do it all inside 24 hours if we can - that's the aim."

THIRTEEN - unlucky for some, but not for Old Swinford Hospital. The Stourbridge school is celebrating thirteen students being offered places at University to study Medicine.

Despite the fact that there are around ten applicants for every medicine place, several of the students received three or four offers - they are only allowed to make four applications - and receiving four offers, as Peter Bridgewater did, is very rare.

Peter's twin brother Ben and Dan El Dalil both got three offers and between the group they received 24 offers and others may still follow.

Pursue

"This has been a record year for Old Swinford Hospital, not only for our future medics, who represent 10 per cent of the cohort, but also for those students hoping to pursue careers in a wide range of other professions," said Dr Richard Heaton, Director of Sixth Form

"We are delivering a lot of students into the caring professions, for example we have two students accepted for pharmacy, nursing, vet science and occupational therapy and three for optometry and physiotherapy," said Dr Richard Heaton, Director of Sixth Form.

Race raises funds

A 22-YEAR-OLD lettings agent from Kingswinford is trying to reach a £250 fundraising target after running the DK 10k road race last week.

Guy Travis completed the run in 50 minutes after training for a month.

Money raised will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust. His website is www.justgiving.com/Guy-Travis.

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Thousands brave rain to make most of May Day

SPIRITS were not dampened as thousands braved heavy rain to attend what could be the final Party in the Park at a Stourbridge beauty spot.

Residents packed out Mary Stevens Park, in Norton, for the event, with large queues forming outside the venue. Stalls, a fairground, historical re-enactors and professional wrestling bouts were among the attractions which drew large crowds to the event on Bank Holiday Monday. But despite the turnout, event organisers Stourbridge and Black Country Events said it was likely to be the final event to be staged.

The company is being dissolved and, unless someone else takes it over, there will be no more Party in the Park.

Celebration
 But the atmosphere on the day remained one of celebration, with the most popular attraction being an appearance by children's TV favourite Peppa Pig, with youngsters and their families queuing up for more than an hour to see the colourful character.

Among those meeting Peppa was three-year-old Evie Timmins, of Arundel Road, Wordsley, and her mum Lucy Staite, 33. "We absolutely love Peppa and try to see her whenever she is at an event," she said. "Evie adores Peppa and is one of her biggest fans." The day concluded with a performance by 90s boyband 911.



A large queue of parents and children formed to see Peppa Pig at the fun day in Mary Stevens Park

Evie Timmins, three, with her mother Lucy got to meet Peppa Pig at the Party in the Park event

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Timetable is agreed for removal of rubbish pile

Driving brought to book



Stuart Matthews, who has written a book about learning to drive for youngsters under 17, called "Learning to drive without being in a car"

A QUALIFIED driving instructor turned teacher from the Black Country has written and published the first of a series of books to help young learner drivers. Stuart Matthews, who is from the Stourbridge area, has published a 34-page book, which includes 48 illustrations, and is intended for use by people who have started learning to drive and 15 and 16-year-olds preparing to take lessons. Mr

Matthews is selling Safe Proficient Motoring through his website www.spmotoring.com. It is available for £7.99 plus packing and postage or £6.49 in download form. Mr Matthews, aged 45, who is not currently teaching, said he took a year-long break for the book project. "It is not an alternative to learning to drive in a car, but is a support for people between lessons," he explained.

BOSSES at a waste recycling firm in Brierley Hill have been given until June 15 to reduce a 40ft pile of rubbish which towers above residents' homes.

The timetable was agreed between the Environment Agency and bosses at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd.

It comes after people living near the site pleaded for action over the mountain of rubbish.

The firm must now lower the rubbish to a height of 26ft at the site, in Moor Street, by June 15 or face further court action.

The Environment Agency had applied for an injunction stopping more waste being brought onto the site to the High Court, sitting at Birmingham's Civil Justice Courts last Thursday.

But the two parties were able to come to an agreement about reducing the pile prior to the hearing. RDF will also have to apply for variations of its permit to allow it to shred and bale waste and use its whole site for waste storage.

Environment Agency spokesman David Hudson said they were pleased there was now a timetable for reducing waste.

"This commitment before the High Court ensures that the operators must now tackle the problem," he said.

"The residents of Brierley Hill can now expect to see real progress in the very near future."

In a statement on behalf of RDF solicitor Michael J. Davies, said: "It is a pity that the matter has had to come before the High Court for this position to be accepted and for a way forward to be found.

Tombola gift plea

UNWANTED birthday and Christmas gifts are wanted for a fundraising event in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Organisers of the charity's summer fete are appealing for quality toys, toiletries, bottles, and other tombola prizes to use at the event on July 14.

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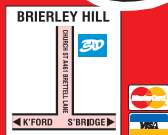
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John Dudley North CBE



North in the record-breaking Type 10 Charabanc in 1913



With the mayor, Sir Charles Mander in 1940



North (hatless) by the pioneering all-metal Boulton & Paul Bolton in 1922



Labour Air Minister Roy Jenkins, with North at a conference about Concorde

Pioneer North was star in the world of aviation

JOHN Dudley North was one of the great pioneers of British aviation.

Not so well known as those who gave their names to famous aircraft companies like Geoffrey De Havilland, Frederick Handley Page and Richard Fairey, nevertheless he wielded as much influence over one particular company as any of them, the local aircraft builder, Boulton Paul Aircraft.

North began an apprenticeship in marine engineering, but in 1911 joined the infant aircraft maker, The Aeronautical Syndicate at Hendon.

When that folded he moved next door to Grahame White Aviation, and soon became chief engineer. One of the aircraft he designed there was the first British aircraft to loop the loop, and his Type 10 Charabanc set a World Record in 1913, by lifting 10 people aloft on the power of its 120 hp engine.

In 1915, aged just 22, he came to the Midlands, helping set up aircraft production lines at Austin Motors and starting up its design office.

Like Austins, Boulton & Paul, a Norwich joinery company, was brought into aircraft manufacturing with Gov-



By Alec Brew

ernment orders. It soon decided to start their own design office, and recruited North as chief engineer.

For more than 50 years he was to be its dominate influence, retiring as chairman. He pioneered the use of metal in aircraft structures, which led to Boulton & Paul being trusted with the design and construction of the largest aircraft ever made in this country, the R.101 Airship.

As aircraft speeds increased he led the way in producing fully enclosed power operated gun turrets for his Overstrand bomber.

He bought the rights to a French electro-hydraulic turret which would arm the famous Defiant fighter and form the basis for the aviation work on which the company thrives to this day.

In 1934 the aircraft department of Boulton & Paul was sold off, and became Boulton Paul Aircraft Ltd. A factory was built on a green-field site at

Pendeford, and 600 Norfolk workers moved to Wolverhampton.

It built nearly 2,000 aircraft at Pendeford, and more than 20,000 Boulton Paul gun turrets armed Allied aircraft during the Second World War.

The electro-hydraulic technology of the turrets was applied to the design of power control units which were increasingly used in jet aircraft, and the company was at the forefront in designing electronic fly-by-wire controls, as used in Concorde and modern combat aircraft and airliners.

He oversaw the merger of 'his' company with that of his great friend George Dowty. The firm which, after a series of take-overs, became Moog Aerospace.

North was a self taught man with a brilliant mind, who absorbed scientific knowledge and was able to apply it to practical engineering solutions. He loved cricket and alpinism and cultivated a fine alpine garden at his Bridgnorth home.

North died in 1968; he been awarded a CBE, but it is difficult to understand why he never received the knighthood edge of British aviation for 55 years.



North shows Sir Archiebald Sinclair turret parts in 1942



A 50 years service award in 1967 is presented by his friend George Dowty, with Mrs North

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Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

OPEN DAY

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An ever increasing range of sports and leisure facilities means that there is something for everyone, regardless of age and ability, whilst the rural location makes it a pleasure to visit all year round.

The venue boasts 14 tennis courts, 12 of which are floodlit, 6 of which have all weather surfaces. There are men's, ladies and mixed teams, plus regular social sessions as well as beginners' courses - and qualified coaches on hand to offer private or group tuition.

As well as the tennis facilities the club has 6 squash courts with a thriving squash and racketball section offering all standards of league play as well as social playing nights. Juniors play an important part in the club activities and weekly group sessions are available at no extra charge.

The gym has an extensive range of equipment with a full time Gym Manager on hand to give

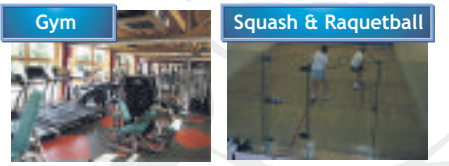


advice on training and diet. The club boasts fabulous bar & social events including quizzes, salsa nights, discos, live bands and much more.

The club is holding an Open Day on Saturday 14th May from 11am to 4pm. Come along and discover for yourself what the club has to offer - there will be a wide variety of activities including exhibition matches, test the speed of your serve, a Racketball 12 hour playathon and a chance to hit with our coaches. An all day BBQ and the bar will provide you with all the refreshments you will need for a fun day. Everybody welcome.

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 All Visitors Welcome

Cardio Tennis Session 1pm - 2pm
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William Cole - Managing Director

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thechronicle

LETTERS

Crazy bureaucracy in the NHS

MY WIFE is a specialist nurse at one of the large Birmingham hospitals. Recently she asked her line manager if she could have a presentation folder to store paper work. To which her manager said yes she can if she finds one she likes he will order it for her. So my wife found a leather presentation folder online. It was just under £7. So returned to her manager to ask for it be ordered, but to her dismay she was informed she cannot possibly have this one as it's not from an approved NHS sup-

plier. So instead she was given a beefy looking catalogue from the NHS logistics department. She found an almost identical folder but not at such an identical price, this folder was a little over £50 but because it was from an approved supplier they had no issues in buying it. To me this does not make sense when we are in and out of recessions and supposed NHS cutbacks. I know this is only a small thing in the bigger picture of NHS finance but I'm sure it's happening across the board from CT scanners to uniforms.

I am also a nurse but I work in the private sector where if we find a cheaper alternative at the same quality we go ahead and buy it, without a six month paper exercise and several highly paid bureaucrats umming and arring over it. To me this is bureaucracy gone mad and the NHS working itself into a downward spiral of financial demise.
ADAM HOPE
 Haslingden Crescent
 Gornal
 Dudley

Horses for courses do as they are trained

LIKE millions of others worldwide, I watch the Grand National on TV. The last time I placed a bet on a horse was more than 50 years ago. Susie Hayward obviously is a horse lover, and I sympathise with her and all horse lovers who agree with her comments. But, and I must stress this point, many of the horses that unseated their jockeys in the national continued to race over the fences. Horses are trained to do their jobs. If the owners and trainers felt that allowing them to run in races like the national was harmful, would they continue to do it? And also, why do many fields all over the country have "jumps" erected in them?

PETER COLE
 Chelford Crescent
 Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Why has future hope not helped eyesore?

THE REDEVELOPMENT of Stourbridge with its new bus station and demolition of its multi-storey car park which over looked the ring road gives us hope for the town's future. Stourbridge has a football club and cricket club to be proud of, with a beautiful church standing opposite making Amblecote the perfect gateway into Stourbridge. So why has the memorial club standing empty for over 10 years been allowed to become an eyesore by whoever owns it? Vicarage Road stands immediately opposite the memorial club. It is now without a post box having had, not one but two, stolen, while our councillors walk the streets trying to decide where to put the next one. Could I suggest they kill two birds with one stone, by putting it in front of the memorial club. Well it would brighten the old place up a bit.
JIM GRAINGER
 Vicarage Road,
 Amblecote

Fuel use tests are simply for guidance

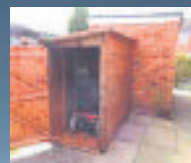
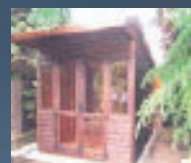
REGARDING the report of the "What Car" fuel consumption tests which dispute the official government figures, I would like to point out the figures which have to be available in advertising literature are not intended to show what a car achieves under normal driving. What they are intended for is to give buyers a way of comparing one car with another, so if for instance one car's urban cycle figure is 40mpg and another is 37mpg it is reasonable to assume the 1st car is better. Before the regulations came in, car manufacturers would do their own tests, and the claims, although no doubt true would be of no use to the consumer. So let us be thankful we have this system of testing
RON GWILLIAMS
 Brierley Hill

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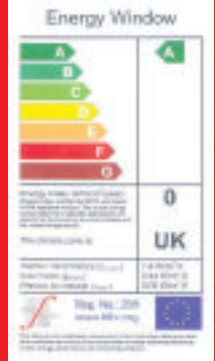
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thechronicle

Gardener to spill beans

THE OWNER of a well-known garden centre near Stourbridge will give a talk in aid of charity later this month.

John Massey, who started Ashwood Nurseries as a teenager, will present his slide show called Spring into Summer on May 17.

Money raised will be donated to Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

It has been organised by the Kinver volunteer fundraising group and will be at St Peter's Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets, £6, on 01384 877680.

Giant wind farm silos begin turbine trek



One of the silos leaves the Pressvess factory in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford

TWO huge metal silos that will be used to create off-shore wind farms across the globe have left the Midlands on the back of specialist lorries.

Kingswinford-based Pressvess has completed a £200,000 contract to create the two silos.

And the metal cylinders, measuring more than 30ft in length and 11ft in diameter, have now left the site.

Their departure marks the end of the month-long project.

They were taken from the firm, in Stallings Lane, aboard specialist lorries due to their size and weight. Each silo can contain 100-tons of cement and

will be installed aboard ships used for the construction of large off-shore wind turbines.

They have been painted a distinctive sky blue colour and weigh more than 18 tons.

The firm, based in Stallings Lane, was contracted to create the containers by construction company Foundoean.

Concrete

After leaving the company, the silos will now be taken to Aberdeen and will then be transported to the construction ships.

They will be permanently installed to the boats so a large supply of concrete is available to crews working on the turbines at all times.

Pressvess spokesman Tom Mason

said that the company was very proud of the work which it had done on the silos.

"It is great to think work we have created here in the Black Country will be going out across the globe to work on projects of this type," he said.

"These silos are very large and it has taken around a month to manufacture them.

"We were recommended to Foundoean by another customer of ours and we were delighted to work on a project of this kind."

Mr Mason said it was the third environmental project the firm had been involved in.

It has created a stainless steel water wheel and kilns for other projects.

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Class fundraising



Teachers Rosie Hatton, Tony Bowles and Dave Boerm get ready for the challenge

FOUR intrepid teachers from Kingswinford will be lacing up their hiking boots to tackle three mountains in 24 hours.

The team from The Crestwood School are doing the Three Peaks Challenge and are aiming to raise at least £2,000 for charity.

They will climb Ben Nevis the tallest mountain in the British Isles standing at 4,409ft followed by Scafell Pike and Snowdon on May 12.

The team is made up of deputy headteacher Tony Bowles and PE teachers Dave Boerm, Steve Evans and Rosie Hatton. All the money raised will be donated to Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Mr Bowles said the pupils had been supporting their fundraising. "They have been bringing in pennies for us and we have raised quite a bit of money just through that," he said.

Mr Bowles added local businesses were also supporting their cause by providing their vehicle for the trip and food and drink.

To sponsor the team call 01384 816535.

Firm driving home its safety message

THE STOURBRIDGE-BASED Western region of Mansell Construction Services is promoting its company-wide safety initiative to businesses in its supply chain.

The company has been holding a series of drop-in workshops for its supply chain partners to allow them to become fully accredited "Make Safety Personal" partners under Mansell's Zero Harm initiative.

Zero Harm is a Mansell programme with the aim of completely eradicating accidents, injuries and long-term health issues from its many sites.

The initiative emphasises personal responsibility among employees.

Western Region operations manager Martin Farrell said Zero Harm was a vital initiative for Mansell and its supply chain partners, and he was delighted that more than 5,000 people now held a Mansell Passport to Work, 63 per cent of whom are in supply chain organisations.

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CPR shown to shoppers

A PARAMEDIC demonstrated CPR to Stourbridge shoppers at the weekend. Martin Hammond from West Midlands Ambulance Service was in Ryemarket Shopping Centre Saturday and Sunday. He taught shoppers to learn 'hands only' CPR made famous recently by British Heart Foundation's advert with Vinnie Jones. Mr Hammond said: "I tried to get as many locals as possible to take a break from shopping to learn hands-only CPR as it's so easy to learn and, ultimately, could help to save a life."

Shop raises £4k after charity vote

NEARLY £4,000 has been raised for a community project in the Black Country by staff at a supermarket. Sainsbury's in Amblecote generated a total of £3,900 for the Brierley Hill Project through a series of events over the last year. Customers had voted for the charity to be supported by the store. The charity, based in Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, organises workshops for residents and also helps people develop skills to boost their chances of finding a job. Among the events over the last year, a fashion show at the store raised £300, while a scrap metal recycling event at Mason Metals in Brierley Hill generated £800. A Christmas raffle raised £413 and a bric-a-brac stall known as Teddy Towers brought in £1,270. John Cook, operations manager and trustee at the Brierley Hill Project, said: "We're really grateful for the fantastic efforts of the colleagues and customers."

Eyesore clubhouse back on market as deal fails

AN EYESORE former clubhouse in Stourbridge is back on the open market after a deal for the disused site fell through days after 'sold' signs had been put up. Stourbridge War Memorial Club has stood empty for a decade with the building growing severely dilapidated through vandalism, fire and weather damage. Last month, officials from

the Lee, Shaw Partnership announced a sale for the site, in Amblecote High Street, had been agreed with only a few minor details to be finalised. **Second** But just days after sold signs went up on the building the deal fell through leaving the former club and its surrounding lands on the market once again. It is the second time a sale has

fallen through for the site. Plans were submitted in 2009 to turn the site into a restaurant and cabaret. But the scheme floundered over traffic concerns. Officials from the Lee, Shaw Partnership today said it was "disappointing" the sale had fallen through but remained optimistic of finding someone to take over the site. Spokesman James Totney said: "since the site went back on the market we have had a lot of interest."

Help urged on project

A BLACK COUNTRY charity is launching a "befriending" scheme to support people with mental health problems. Dudley Mind in Stourbridge, is hoping to be in a position to help those who find it difficult to leave their home or socialise with other people. The charity is setting up its "Green Sparks" horticultural project on a half acre plot of land in Kingswinford. To be considered for the scheme or for more details call 01384 442938, or email enquiries@dudleymind.org.uk

Golden romantics



Wallace and Margaret Nock, who are celebrating 50 years of marriage

MARGARET and Wallace Nock met as teenagers "hanging around" outside a pub - and now they are celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Margaret, aged 70, was just 14 when Wallace, now 73, offered to walk her home after they met outside the Saltwells pub in Netherton, Dudley.

The couple married at Netherton Church on April 23 1962.

"We've had our ups and downs but we've stuck together - and that means a lot after all these years," said Margaret. The couple have lived in Willow Road, Kiner, for the last 30 years and previously had homes in Quarry Bank and Bobbington.

Wallace is a retired arc welder at Weldall Assembly, Stourbridge, and Margaret was a shop assistant at Walker's drapers in Blackheath.

The low point of their lives was when their son, Warren, was killed in a mountaineering accident on Snowdon 25 years ago, when he was aged only 25. They have two other children, Wayne, aged 48, and Melanie, 38, three grandchildren and a great grandson.

Jazz concerts planned for canalside venue

A PROGRAMME of jazz concerts is being staged at a Black Country venue.

Events will be held at the Bonded Warehouse, in Canal Street, Stourbridge, over the coming months.

All concerts start at 7.30pm and admission is £7 or £3.50 for students or under-16s.

The next event will take place on May 11 and will feature saxophonist Simon Spillett and vibes player Paul Sawtell with the Levi French Trio.

The Simon Deeley Trio will take to the stage on June 8 accompanied by Ian Hill and Cormac Loane on saxophones and trombonist Richard Baker.

The concert is called Jazz Composers Spotlight and will include compositions by Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk and Bill Evans.

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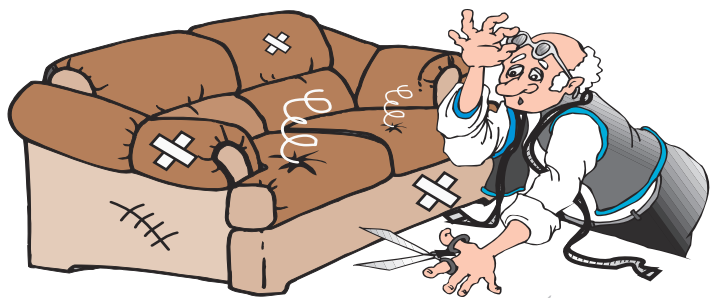
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Diabetes no barrier to Gary's charity running

Dean's lean look



Slimmer Dean Worrall and inspirational Vikki Billingham

SUPER-SLIMMER Dean Worrall is celebrating after shedding more than 15 stone – and bagging an accolade for his dramatic weight loss.

At 33st and unable to climb ladders or scaffolding towers, the electrician from Stourbridge was made redundant.

The 35-year-old has now lost a staggering 15st 5lb and got his old job back. He said: "It's really difficult to get a job when you're very overweight."

His life changed when he joined the Brierley Hill branch of Slimming World and swapped fast food for healthy meals. "I'm loving life again," he said.

His weight loss saw him placed sixth in the finals of Slimming World's Greatest Loser 2012 competition. He has been supported by 39-year-old Vikki Billingham, from Brierley Hill, who dropped more than 16st last year.

A CONSTRUCTION manager from Stourbridge, who has diabetes, is putting on his running shoes in aid of Diabetes UK.

Gary Pallant has signed up to run the Bupa Great North Run in Newcastle and Gateshead on 16 September.

The 29-year-old, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2003, said: "I have always wanted to take part in this race as my family are originally from Newcastle and I remember watching the race as a child."

He suffered the symptoms of diabetes, including being thirsty, for almost a year before feeling unwell enough to go to the doctors.

"I ended up being taken straight to hospital where I was admitted for five days," he said.

Diabetes UK is the nominated charity partner for the Bupa Great Run Series from 2012.

Running, as well as other physical activities, can help with managing diabetes more effectively, in addition to helping reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Monitor

Gary was inspired to take part in the run after adopting a healthier lifestyle.

"Having diabetes has not prevented me from doing anything I set my mind to," he said.

Before running he attended a course to learn about carbohydrate counting and monitor insulin levels.

"I set myself a goal to lose weight, using the informa-



Gary Pallant – running

tion from the course to lose four stone," he said.

"Since then, I have dramatically improved my fitness and taken up running. I try not to let diabetes hold me back from anything – my current goal is to beat my time from last year's half marathon at this year's Bupa Great North Run, and I can't wait!"

Diabetes UK fundraising manager Jo Oldfield, said: "I would like to convey our thanks to Gary for signing up to take part in the Bupa Great North Run."

"The funds Gary raises will go a long way in helping us continue to support the 284,000 people diagnosed with diabetes in the West Midlands and help us find the estimated 87,000 people in the area who are unaware they have Type 2 diabetes."

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Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Great Gardens of Sussex and Kent FROM £279*

Four days departing July 6

Sussex and Kent are home to some of the finest gardens in the country and give a wonderful insight into centuries of gardening trends. Includes entrance to Great Dixter House and gardens and Nymans. Visits to Wakehurst Place, Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Borde Hill Garden and Sheffield Park and garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Kents Castles and Gardens FROM £289*

Four days departing August 17

Kent is a place where heritage meets horticulture and this tour takes in some of the highlights, from romantic gardens to the 'loveliest castle in the world'. Includes entrances to Scotney, Hever and Leeds castles, Penshurst Palace and visits to 'The World Garden of Plants' at Lullingstone Castle and Sissinghurst Castle garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden FROM £159.95*

Three days departing September 7

A visit to the truly magical Alnwick Garden, one of the most talked about and remarkable garden transformations of recent times, and Holy Island, or Lindisfarne as it's often known, cradle of English Christianity, are just two of the highlights of this weekend. Includes entrance to Alnwick garden and visits to Durham, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne.

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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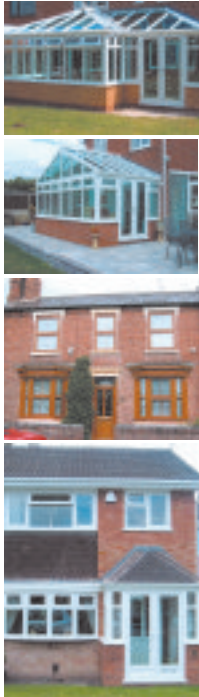
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thechronicle



Serving up tickets for a show double

THE summer sees the return of BBC Gardeners' World Live and the BBC Good Food Show Summer to the NEC, and we're giving you the chance to win tickets to both shows.

From June 13-17, the shows promise gardening and food fairs the ultimate day out.

And with 24 pairs of tickets up for grabs Chronicle readers have the chance to go along for free.

Exhibitors

BBC Gardeners' World Live has an impressive offering for lovers of the great outdoors, with experts including Monty Don, Alan Titchmarsh, Carol Klein, Adam Pasco and Joe Swift appearing in the BBC Gardeners' World Theatre.

There will be the fantastic RHS Show Gardens, top tips on the 'Grow Your Own' stage and Garden Walks. As well as a collection of students' work with Birmingham Borders, a display of Edible Patches and a fantastic family weekend.

Gadgets

This year's BBC Good Food Show sees top foodie faces including James Martin, the Hairy Bikers, Theo Randall, John Torode, Gregg Wallace and Glynn Purnell take to the stage in the Summer Kitchen.

In addition, there will also be key features like the MasterChef Experience - including the MasterChef Demonstration Stage and Restaurant



- the Producers' Village and the FoodLovers Approved Area. There will also be hundreds of exhibitors offering the latest foodie produce and gadgets.

For more information about the show, visit www.thenec.co.uk, and to buy tickets go to: www.bbcgardenerworldlive.com or 0844 581 1340 and www.bbcgoodfoodshowsummer.com or 0844 581 1341.

James Martin will be at the show to rustle up some culinary masterpieces

COMPETITION

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets answer the following

Name one of the top foodie faces

Send your entries to Food/Garden Show Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, May 17.

Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. All tickets are general admission excluding the Saturday. Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Ticket terms and conditions apply.

A jubilee party with cakes fit for a queen

THE CURRENT vogue for baking will no doubt lead to a right royal collection of cakes and cookies adorning tables during the street parties celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, during the first weekend in June.

Kitchenware specialists Lakeland have brought out an exclusive **Street Party Collection** for patriotic afternoon tea parties to mark the monarch's 60 year reign.

These include a two-tier cake stand, easy to slot together and wipe clean (£6.99) with matching food flags (£2.99 for 20), paper napkins (£3.49 for 20).

Packs of 60 two-inch diameter cake cases (£3.49) come in three designs and are greaseproof. The packs of 30 cake cases (£2.49) have a Union Flag inspired design.

The Crown Cookie Cutters (£2.99) and Flag Cookie Cutter (£1.29) add a regal touch to tea.

There are also jam jar topper and tag kits (£5.99).

Lakeland's **Vintage Jubilee Textile Collection** will make sure cook and kitchen look the part with two crown-embellished tea towels (£9.99), double oven glove (£11.99) and apron (£14.99) with front pocket and an adjustable neck strap. You will need something to make those



Secret fillings are possible with the Silverwood Victoria Surprise Cake Set Duo, available from Lakeland

cakes in. Dainty miniature Victorian sponges are a doddle with the exclusive 12 cup loose-based mini sandwich pan (£19.99). Or bake cakes with a hidden filling using the Silverwood Victoria Surprise Cake Set Duo (£19.99). Raised bases create wells so the cook can conceal a secret centre, or leave them out for a traditional sponge. For further details see www.lakeland.co.uk website.

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Bike ride in town is only open to women

A WOMEN-ONLY bike ride has been organised in Stourbridge.

It will take place on May 12 and aims to help cyclists improve their confidence as the riders will be taken on a traffic-free route.

The ride starts from the Hub Building in Mary Stevens Park at 11am.

It has been set up by Breeze which is encouraging more women to take up cycling following research by Sport England, which said three times more men get on a bike for fun than women.

The Breeze network aims to close this gap by offering advice and support to help women overcome some of the barriers which stop them from getting on a bike, such as access to cycle hire, someone to ride with, and safe routes in their local area.

Breeze is part of British Cycling's programme of free events, activities, information and support.

For further information visit: www.breezebike.com or contact the Breeze network at British Cycling on 0161 274 2117.

Dancing delight

THE Internationally-known seven-piece folk band The Old Dance School will be putting on a shindig in Clent Parish Hall on May 13 at 7.30pm.

Career decision was a cut above as family tradition won through

SHE was adamant she would not follow in the family tradition of hairdressing and instead try her hand as an art student.

But, changing her career path to follow in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, Alison Webb is proving the hairdressers that has been run by generations of her family is a cut above the others.

She has taken a trip down memory lane to celebrate the business trading in Wall Heath for more than 50 years.

And, speaking of her pride in what her family had established, she pledged to continue what they had started in years to come.

Hit Alison, 35, purchased the business, now called Elizabeth & Lee, from her mother Bonnie Thorpe eight years ago, continuing the family tradition.

The shop is now based in Albion Parade but it originally started at the rear of a drug store, in High Street, in the early 1960s.

It was started by Alison's grandmother Maisie Hodgkiss and soon proved such a hit with residents she asked her son, Paul, to get involved with the business.

In a twist she cut the male customers' hair and he the women's.

Alison's mother started working at the firm as a Saturday girl and was originally responsible for washing people's hair before it was cut.

By Lee Watton

Bonnie proved very popular with customers and, with their encouragement, took up the scissors herself despite having no formal training.

She proved a natural and in the 1970s took over sole running of the business when Paul decided to pursue another career as a driving instructor. The hairdressers moved to Albion Parade in the late 1970s. Through the 80s it was known as Bonnie and Clyde and Passion.

Alison said she had originally had no plans to take over the business and had attended art college in her teens.

"My father actually encouraged me to do something else but at the age of 19 I decided I really wanted to give it a shot," she said.

"My mother and I agreed I should be trained independently so I worked elsewhere at the beginning of my career."

"I then came and worked for my mother for four years and when she decided to retire I bought the company."

"I am so proud of what my family has achieved."



From left, Gemma Allen, Alison Webb, Kirsty Gregg and Nikki Freeman



Paul Hodgkiss who was the former owner of Paul's Hair Fashions



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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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thechronicle



The Birmingham Wonder Stage Coach fed the beginnings of fast food. Images courtesy of Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies

Fast food already on road to success back in coaching inn days

We all presume the takeaway is a modern invention, but it was on our streets more than 200 years ago. **SAM BADGER**, who won the Wolverhampton History Symposium with her study into fast food, explains

Food, inglorious food! We tend to think of fast food as an American concept from the 1950s.

But there has long been a need to buy food that is ready, and quick to eat. Britain might not have given the world fine dining but we were definitely responsible for the sandwich!

If we look at Wolverhampton from 1800 onwards we can see that, far from a modern phenomenon, fast food has been a high street commodity from a surprisingly early date.

Two hundred years ago Wolverhampton was a major coaching centre. In the days before railways, and before much of the industrialisation that characterised the area, travellers' needs shaped the town.

A stone's throw from the Roman London to Holyhead Road, Wolverhampton, was an important stop en route to every part of the kingdom. Dudley Street was the centre of the coaching trade, boasting no fewer than a dozen public houses.

Needed

There were other important coaching inns in the city at High Green (Queen Square), Cock Street (Victoria Street) and North Street. In the 1820s, the Lion in North Street dealt with 20-30 coaches per day. Twenty years before, a young Princess Victoria had made her first journey to Wolverhampton, when her coach stopped briefly at the Lion on its way to Holyhead.

While some coaches just changed horses or drivers, hundreds of travellers needed to eat - and if ever food had to be fast, it was during the days of the stage coach.

Passengers stopped at each stage for only half an hour, and the food on offer usually included beef steaks, mutton chops, veal cutlets or ham and eggs (hence the name "chop houses" often applied to inns).

Landlords were often suspected of delaying their service so paying guests had no time to eat anything. The days of the stage coach were numbered with the advent of the railways.

The railways brought other benefits. Sea fish, once an expensive rarity in the Midlands, became widely available. In early times, fish had been transported in barrels of sea water but often turned putrid.

Most people ate only freshwater fish, while the poor ate vast quantities of red herrings or kippers. The railways meant fish arrived fresh in the towns and cities. However, in a time before refrigeration, it would not remain so for long. A visitor to Wolverhampton in the 1840s noted that fishmongers on the town's market could be smelled



J Lyons set up a chain of tea shops and restaurants, one in Queen Square



Arguably the nation's favourite fast food - fish and chips has been frying since the 1860s



The Star and Garter was one of Wolverhampton's oldest coaching inns

long before they were seen. So the fish and chip trade that developed in the 1860s was partly in response to the need to dispose of stock that was "on the turn". Frying arrested the process of decay making old fish palatable. It could be sold at a profit to the workers in the rapidly expanding cities and towns.

Horrific

Fish and chip shops flourished in the industrial areas and poorer residential streets. Fish was fried in brew houses and kitchens and sold on.

Confectioners produced sweet and savoury pies, and street vendors and market traders sold cooked foods in the open air in horrific conditions that were barely regulated until the middle of the 20th century. In 1900, a penny lick ice cream was served in a glass by street vendors. The customer licked the glass clean and returned it to the vendor, who promptly refilled it and

offered it to another customer! This was eventually outlawed (not least because it spread tuberculosis) and edible cones were used.

During the 20th century, opportunities to eat out became more diverse. Music halls and cinemas served food, while stores like Beatties developed their own restaurants and cafes after the First World War. Coffee bars and milk bars served hot drinks and snacks, and workers' canteens sprang up at some of the big industrial firms.

Between the wars, many outlets opened seven days a week, like the Lyons tea shop on Queen Square, and until quite late at night, such as Beatties, which was open until 10pm. After the pubs finished serving, the fish and chip shop was king, until the advent of more exotic Chinese and Indian cuisine after the Second World War. These have remained part of our fast food culture today.

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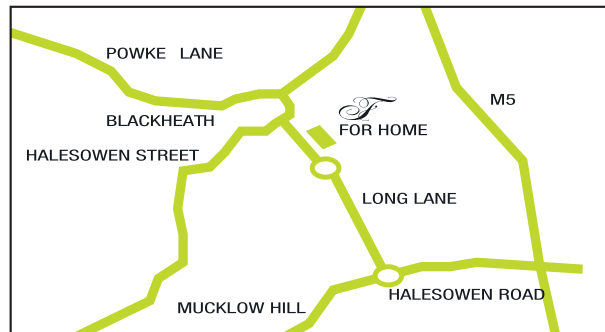
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thechronicle

Tycoon's wife tops the area rich list

THE Staffordshire-born wife of a Swiss pharmaceutical tycoon is the West Midlands' richest person after increasing her wealth by £530 million last year.

The latest edition of the Sunday Times Rich List showed Kirsty Bertarelli, originally from Stone and now also Britain's richest woman, saw her worth alongside husband Ernesto boosted to £7.4bn, putting her at the top of the region's wealth league and in sixth place for the UK as a whole.

The soaring success of Staffordshire's JCB almost doubled the fortune of owner Sir Anthony Bamford and his family, now 20th nationally and second in the West Midlands. Mobile phone magnate John Caudwell, of Eccleshall, was third in the West Midlands.

Beauty and peace reign deep down in the Hall of the Mountain King

What is the appeal descending underground to crawl through mud in the dark and damp? **REBECCA CARR** dons her lamp and hard hat to find out

WHY would anyone want to go caving? Not even Glastonbury could prepare me for how muddy I would get.

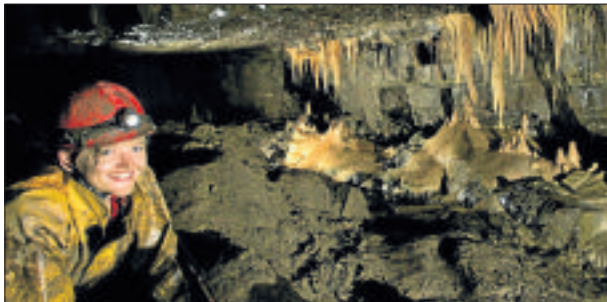
You spend hours squeezing through tight spaces, climbing up slippery uneven surfaces and crawling through icy water. It's cold, dark and damp.

On a bright sunny morning in South Wales, I took the plunge into darkness with Dudley Caving Club and crawled my way into Ogof Craig A Ffynnon to find out.

After a short scramble, the cave opened up into a small cavern full of "straw" stalactites suspended from the ceiling.

This was my first insight into the spectacular world underground. By the time we reached the grandest chamber, aptly named The Hall of the Mountain King, I had forgotten the claustrophobic crawls we had achieved to get there.

It looked like a film set, more Lord of the Rings than the 2005 caving-based horror



Still smiling – a muddy Rebecca Carr deep in the Ogof Craig A Ffynnon in South Wales

film The Descent. Chairman of Dudley Caving Club, Keith Edwards, said: "I don't know why I like caving. It still amazes me when we crawl through all the grotty stuff and it opens up into somewhere like the Hall of the Mountain King." I was relieved to have the help of fellow novice caver, Chloe

Burney, a vet working in Sedgley. Her reason for joining Dudley Caving Club was that she wanted to do something that scared her after feeling unimpressed by a tandem skydive. Chloe said: "I'm not the most natural caver but I think my enthusiasm counts. "My friends don't understand why

I would choose to go caving." It has created a bad reputation for the hobby and many people warned me to avoid seeing it before my underground adventure.

To put people's minds at rest, there's nothing down there, except for a small bat.

With a little help and an extra ladder pitched for the beginners, I managed all of the tunnels and climbs.

Managed

The boulder choke – a corkscrew tunnel created by boulders – proved challenging with a scary head-first decent on the way back out.

Mark Burkey was thrilled that his new diet allowed him to make the final squeeze before we headed back into the sunshine. The smell of fresh air once outside was a welcome relief after four hours in the caves. It could have been an ordeal, but the friendly team of cavers helping me along the way made the whole experience rewarding and at times, even fun.

If interested in joining Dudley Caving Club call Keith on 0121 525 1230 or visit www.dudleycavingclub.org.uk

Start-up firms on the rise in region

MORE than 8,000 new companies have been registered in the Black Country and southern Staffordshire in the past year.

Business leaders welcomed the news saying it shows confidence by investors and entrepreneurs in the region.

In total, 8,158 new companies were registered last year in the Black Country, Wyre Forest, Cannock Chase and Stafford, compared to 7,339 in 2010 – an 11 per cent increase like-for-like.

The trend continued this year with figures compiled by business data company Duport showing 785 companies registering in the area in March. There were 58 start-up businesses registered in Dudley alone during the month. Engineering, IT and retail companies are among the firms established.



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Brave Ben takes on new challenge of mile swim

BRAVE Stourbridge scout Ben Hart – known for the “cheeky smile” that hides the pain of a crippling illness – is planning to take on yet another challenge.

The 16-year-old Explorer Scout is doing a one-mile sponsored swim to raise money for a charity that has helped him since he was diagnosed with a painful bone disease.

He has undergone many operations and is fitting in his swimming effort before going for yet more extensive

surgery this summer. Ben, of Pedmore, who in November earned the second highest award in scouting, the Medal for Meritorious Conduct – recently met the Queen when he was invited to the National Scout Service and Parade.

The Queen reviewed the parade of Queen Scouts and scouts with good service awards.

Ben was diagnosed with Perthes Disease at the age of five. He joined Beavers then moved up through cub scouts and scouts, even though at times he has been on crutches or in a wheelchair. His Explorer Scout leader Mike

Randle has praised him for taking on challenges with determination and a “cheeky smile”.

Ben will be doing the sponsored swim at the Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge on June 3. He hopes to raise £1,000 for the Perthes Association, which supplied a wheelchair for him last year. “I am going to be swimming 64 lengths which, for me at the moment with my mobility constraints, really is quite a distance,” he said.

Anyone wishing to donate to his effort should visit www.justgiving.com/benjaminhart3

Grease is the word at drive-in



Steph Woodbine and Matt Meredith from Westfield Merry Hill's concierge team are all ready for the drive-in showing of Grease

FILM fans can put on their leather jackets and poodle skirts and head to Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre to watch Grease on the big screen.

A drive-in movie event will take place on May 31 giving people the chance to watch from their cars. Proceeds from the event will aid Merry Hill's charity for the year, Rollercoasters.

The charity helps 40 disabled or ill children in Dudley to have fun and make friends. People need to head to P2 car park outside Debenhams to watch the iconic flick.

To gain entry and free popcorn to the retro night out, simply purchase a programme at the concierge desk in the centre.

The gates open at 7pm on May 31 and the film will begin promptly at 9pm.

Marketing manager Kelly Reed said: “The 1950s were all about full skirts, drive-in movies, being carefree and having fun.

“We can't wait to see everyone having a blast and singing along to all the Grease classics.”

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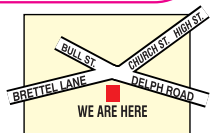
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CLUB NEWS

thechronicle

Members visited by fire crew

Entertaining talk on Life in the 50s

QUARRY BANK TOWNSWOMEN

THERE were 23 members present at the April meeting, which began as usual with the reading and signing of the previous month's minutes.

The financial report was given. On this occasion there had been no correspondence received.

The social secretary gave information regarding the birthday dinner to be held at the Mill Hotel. The coach is to leave Quarry Bank at 6.45. Also there are a few places left on the coach to Redditch.

The guild was visited on this evening by members of the Brierley Hill Fire Service. A talk was given on the many possible fire hazards in homes, and the ways in which they can be made safer. The offer was made for visits to members' homes, where advice would be given on safety aspects, and also fire alarms fitted, all free of charge.

Several members wished to take advantage of these offers and gave names and addresses.

The guild was very grateful for the visit and the fire-fighters were thanked for a valuable, informative visit.

Next month's meeting on May 15 will be a social evening with various activities and will include a bring-and-buy sale which is hoped will be well supported.



Sylvia Aston, Jean Joyce, Elizabeth Wyatt-Garrido, speaker John Billingham, chairman Isabel Mason, vice-chairman Carol Pritchard and Sue Booker

AT the April meeting, members welcomed John Billingham who gave a thoroughly entertaining talk on "Life in the Fifties".

Mr Billingham showed slides of various aspects of life during those years including clothes, children's games, household gadgets, food, and life in general. Chairman Isabel Mason brought along a John Bull magazine from 1955 when a holiday in Italy could be had for 23 and a half guineas.

The quarterly raffle was held and more than 20 prizes were won. The club is open to

HIGHGATE LADIES PROBUS CLUB

retired or semi-retired ladies and meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Broadway United Reform Church, Gillity Avenue, Walsall, from 10.15am.

The next meeting will be held on May 14 when the talk will be "Clothes - an Historical Perspective".

There's nothing like a dame

WORDSLEY M TOWNSWOMEN

ACTING chairman Liz Hubbard welcomed all, particularly visitors, to a special 10th anniversary meeting.

Visitors included members from other guilds, including Wollaston.

Federation representative Ann Birchill reminded members of the arts and crafts exhibition at the Water Hall Gallery, Birm-

ingham on June 28 and 29 at the same time as the AGM.

The inter-guild quiz has been brought forward from October to May 28.

An afternoon event of tea, cakes and poetry is arranged for May 30 at Wollaston

Church Hall, admission £4, while the guild will have a table at a Wordsley Green Community Centre open day on June 30.

The raffle was drawn for the patchwork quilt, made and donated by Barbara Gregory and there followed a humorous talk by Richard Westcott about his role as a pantomime dame.

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make a real difference to their communities, the environment and the local economy. The police support it, along with local councils, communities and businesses.

How does it do it?

Lifework isn't a charity, it's a social enterprise business that's part of the Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), it pays its own way – almost twice over. How does it manage it? With an exceptionally high quality service, it wins contracts from both the private and public sector for



plumbing and electrical services, home security, estate and grounds maintenance in places ranging from public parks to residential gardens. If your home needs locks changing, they'll do it, efficiently and quickly. If you have problems with your electricity or plumbing, they'll fix it. If a high street business needs a paint job or its outside gardens maintained, they're right there.

They have an exceptional success rate

That's not all - they plough the revenue back into taking people away from unemployment and getting them into a skilled job with comprehensive training. So, in effect, Lifework gets £2 back for every £1 spent. And Lifework enjoys an outstanding success rate. In the past few weeks they have employed 10 people who otherwise would have been claiming benefits, and are enjoying being retrained and reskilled. So as an accredited City & Guilds training provider, there's



an extensive apprenticeship programme, in partnership with local businesses, supporting the local economy. Feedback from clients is overwhelmingly positive. Currently Lifework works mainly in the Sandwell area, but it operates a successful working model that can easily be expanded to other districts. It works closely with local companies and local organisations. Its directors take no payment. It's not about big profits, it's about real jobs for real people that make a real difference.

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"We exist to improve the lives of the people within the community we serve"

thechronicle

Services unite to rescue cat caught in tight spot



Samantha Harper, of Oakfield Close, Stourbridge, with Tyler, six, and Grace, three, stroke lucky Tiger



The gap between the two garages, where Tiger got stuck. Photograph courtesy of the RSPCA

TIGER the tabby cat is back in purring good form after being rescued from a very tight spot by a team of firefighters, the RSPCA and a vet.

The moggie got stuck in a two-and-a-half inch gap between two garage walls near her Stourbridge home.

She was wedged about three feet into the gap and it seemed impossible to get her out. But, eventually, firefighters removed some bricks from

inside the kitchen at one of the houses in Oakfield Close, Amblecote, and, after being sedated by a vet, she was pulled out. The one-year-old cat escaped with grazing to her paws and slight damage to her claws, for which she needed a minor operation, and she is now fully recovered and back home in Oakfield Close.

Her relieved owner, Samantha Harper, aged 27, said: "When I saw where she'd got stuck I just couldn't believe how she'd got in there. "We

only went out for a couple of hours and came home to find Tiger had caused havoc in the street."

Tiger's loud cries alerted residents to her predicament and they called the RSPCA. The charity's inspector Jackie Hickman arrived and, called for help from the fire service and a vet.

She added: "To rescue Tiger from this situation injury free was fantastic and would not have been possible without joint brainpower and a huge team effort."

Harry Shaw

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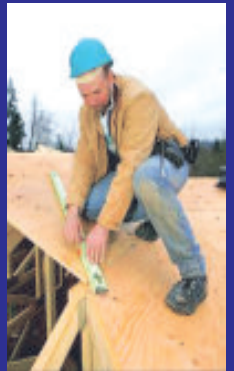
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A grit and saintly mix

Scott Matthews, Dan Whitehouse, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE Newhampton Arts Centre is one of Wolverhampton's best kept secrets but on Friday people flocked to it to see two of Wolverhampton's talented musicians Scott Matthews and Dan Whitehouse.

Scott has a depth, grit and yet creaminess to his voice as he stands almost saint-like, his voice starting off close to just a murmur before building up to a wall of sound.

There is something almost spiritual to his voice at times, it has some of the qualities of Gregorian chant but then can jump from this into Obsession Never Sleeps, an electric sound evoking thoughts of a 1960s dance club.

His wonderful track, Up On the Hill, was the kind of music that could easily feature in a Quentin Tarantino film.

Scott's fellow Wulfrunian, Dan Whitehouse, has matured to become a consummate showman, taking the rise out of himself between songs and getting the audience to warm to him.

Dan is an incredibly talented musician and songwriter.

He is willing to be innovative and can move from the melodic ballad to a harder edged sound with such ease.

His debut album will be available from May 23.

Danny Farragher

Mystery as the newlyweds cruise down river of death

THE Agatha Christie Theatre Company presents a stylish new production of the queen of crime's classic thriller *Murder On The Nile*, at **Wolverhampton Grand from Monday, May 21.**

Has Paul got views for you

Paul Merton, **Wolverhampton Grand**
JUST what goes on in Paul Merton's head?

Quite a lot judging by his improvisation skills and panel show performances. And the audience here got a glimpse of the comic's mind.

In a return to his stand-up days, Merton - with the help of Richard Vranich, Lee Simpson and wife Suki Webster - tackled the subject of mental health in semi-autobiographical style, harking back to his early days and his time spent in the Maudsley psychiatric hospital.

In a fully rehearsed and scripted show there were many gags and clever stage-work as he dealt with the subject - a difficult one to tackle - in a self-deprecating way. The one-liners got the biggest laughs.

Mark Shipp

Former *Dynasty* star Kate O'Mara leads a star-studded cast as an awful English snob on an Egyptian cruise. The other actors include Denis Lill as clerical sleuth Canon Pennefather, who was transformed into Belgian detective Hercule Poirot for the movie version. Also among the Nile steamer's passengers are Coronation Street's Chloe Newsome, Susie Amy from *Footballer's Wives*, Ben Nealon of *Soldier Soldier* and former 1960s pop idol Mark Wynter.

Honeymoon

A honeymoon under the scorching Egyptian sun turns sour as the bridegroom's old flame pursues the newly-weds. Tragedy strikes and holidaying Canon Pennefather is drawn into a web of intrigue, deceit and murder.

Murder On The Nile follows a number of hugely popular plays based on Agatha Christie stories presented at the Lichfield Street venue. This arrival promises plenty of twists during its run until May 26.



In a scene from Agatha Christie's *Murder On The Nile* are, from left, Ben Nealon, Susie Amy and Denis Lill

Gemma set to shine with Glee

IRISH singer/songwriter Gemma Hayes is about to kick off her *Let It Break - The Acoustic Tour* which starts on May 15 in Reading and brings her to the Glee Club in Birmingham on Sunday, May 27.

The tour is named after the Tipperary singer's latest and fourth album out now in the UK and released on her own label. She will be releasing a single from the album called *Shock to the System*.

Doors open 7pm and tickets are £10. For more information go to www.gemmahayes.com

Jazz, bass and ballet

Three Short Works, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet's contribution to its home city's international dance festival was a triple bill that showed the breadth of ballet, danced to music from clattering drum 'n' bass to cool jazz via romantic piano pieces.

BRB dancer and Warwickshire native Kit Holder expanded his dazzling Printer Jam duet, first seen last year, into a 20-minute ballet 9-5 charting a bad day at the office. Holder's choreography was dynamic and witty. The business suited male and female dancers twirled and sped along on office chairs in a power game over the office new boy and girl. Samara Downs was exceptional as the aggressive harpie-like female boss.

Inventive

In contrast, another new commission *Lyric Pieces* is a romantic work drawing on Nordic folklore, danced to piano pieces by Edvard Grieg (pianist Jonathan Higgins was excellent). American choreographer Jessica Lang's ballet is also highly inventive with the dancers creating their own scenery whilst performing by using rolls of black corrugated paper. Perfect timing saw environments morph and form around the dancers, which included an elegant dance by Yvette Knight and a delightful one by Maureya Lebowitz.

The company's director David Bintley left his mark on the evening with a revival of *Take Five*, his short jazz ballet to the music of the Dave Brubeck Quartet. The dancers expressed the cool finger-snapping sounds in movement inspired by 1950s and 60s dance (think *West Side Story* or *Young Generation*), enhanced by costumes from the era. It was Bintley at his audience-pleasing best and the combination of BRB principals Elisha Wills and Robert Parker in the *Two Step* was captivating.

Dance fans will get another opportunity to see *Lyric Pieces* and *Take Five*, presented with Hans van Manen's *Grosse Fuge*, at Birmingham Hippodrome from September 26 to 29.

Leon Burakowski

Tale with twist end

There Was An Old Woman Who Swallowed A Fly, **Wolverhampton Grand**
THERE was an old lady who swallowed a fly... she died of course.

We all know the ending, but this stage production steered clear of that in a show that entertained children of all ages.

Imaginary use of puppets from the two male players showed the old lady eating all the different animals, like a cat, a spider and a horse.

The story's traditional ending was given a twist as the audience was asked to help the professor fix a time machine so they could discover how it all really concluded.

Mark Shipp

Fantasy quests for Xbox 360

FABLE and *Skyrim* fans can get a fantasy fix with the new Enhanced Edition of **The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings** (18).

It looks sensational and thematically is a blend of *Fable* and *Assassin's Creed* though the playing experience isn't as smooth as those blockbusters.

A fun option for *Fable* fans is *Fable Heroes* (7) on Xbox Live. It's a platform coin-collecting game in which *Fable* characters and its Albion settings are given a cute makeover.

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BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT - THE LIVE FINAL
 ITV1, 7.30pm

After seven rounds of auditions and five semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the 10 finalists perform one more time. Their aim: to follow in the footsteps of previous winners Paul Potts, George Sampson, Diversity, Spelbound and Jai McDowall and win a slot at the Royal Variety Performance, as well as getting their hands on the £500,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, for while Simon Cowell and his fellow judges may be poised with their buzzers, their opinion tonight counts for nothing - who wins is all down to the viewers at home.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Football Focus. 12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). 2.15 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 4.45 Film: Madagascar. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Stiller.

6.10 The Voice UK. Team Tom and Team Will take the stage again, and the stakes are even higher as tomorrow each group of four will face a double elimination, leaving the mentors with two acts each. The results can be seen tomorrow at 7.25pm.

7.45 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show, including the all-important numbers.

8.40 Casualty. Dylan and Sam come to an uneasy truce.

9.30 BBC News; Weather.

9.50 FILM: The Proposal. (2009) Premiere. A Canadian publishing editor trying to avoid deportation from the US bribes her assistant to marry her. Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock; National Lottery Update.

11.35 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Alexander Armstrong. (R)

12.20 Film: Things to Do Before You're 30. (2004) Comedy drama, starring Dougray Scott. 1.55 Weatherview. 2.00 BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Film: Picnic. (1955) Drama, with William Holden. 2.10 Film: Bye Bye Birdie. (1963) Musical, starring Dick Van Dyke. 4.00 Flog It! 5.00 Antiques Road Trip.

6.00 BBC Young Musician 2012. The competition heats up as the winners of the keyboard, brass, strings, woodwind and percussion categories perform in front of the panel of judges in the semi-final.

7.30 Dad's Army. Jones's reputation is tarnished by an old comrade's allegations about their time together in the Sudan. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

8.00 The Story of Light Entertainment. The enduring success of the chat show, charting how the format has entertained and influenced the British public. With Michael Parkinson, Terry Wogan and David Frost. (R)

9.00 I Love 1979. Bo Derek presents a nostalgic look at the year notable for such cultural highlights as stretch jeans, Quadrophonia and The Dukes of Hazzard. Last in the series. (R)

10.00 Top of the Pops: 1977. With Slade, Leo Sayer and Donna Summer. (R)

10.35 FILM: Cabaret. (1972) Oscar-winning musical, starring Liza Minnelli.

12.35 Film: Carry On England. (1976) Military comedy, starring Kenneth Connor. 2.00 Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 Saturday Cookbook. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 The Real Housewives of New York City. 12.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.15 ITV News; Weather. 1.25 The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 1.35 Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) Comedy, starring Sid James. 3.15 Film: Dr No. (1962) James Bond spy thriller, starring Sean Connery. 5.20 Regional News ; Weather. 5.30 ITV News; Weather. 5.45 Keith Lemon's LemonAid.

6.30 The Cube. Olympic gold medalists Denise Lewis and Sally Gunnell each compete in up to seven challenges, hoping to win cash for charity. Phillip Schofield presents. Last in the series.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent - The Live Final. The 10 finalists compete as the talent show comes to a close. The judges are on hand with their buzzers, but the ultimate decision rests with the voting public. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 FILM: Ocean's Twelve. (2004) The crooks reunite when an old enemy demands they pay back the money they stole from him three years earlier. Crime caper sequel, with George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts.

12.25 The Store. ITV News Headlines. 2.30 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.15 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 European Rallycross. 7.05 FIM Superbike World Championship 2012. 7.30 The Grid. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 The TV Book Club. 9.30 T4: Koko Pop. 10.05 T4: Dark Shadows: T4 Movie Special. 10.40 T4: Made in Chelsea. 11.45 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.15 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.20 Road to London 2012. That Paralympic Show. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 3.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.30 4thought.tv. A member of the public reflects on whether people should be allowed to use medical techniques to 'design' their babies.

6.35 FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. (2001) An unassuming hobbit must destroy a magical ring before it falls into evil hands. Part one of the fantasy trilogy, with Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin and Christopher Lee.

10.00 FILM: Transporter 3. (2008) An underworld courier transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked politician across Europe. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham and Natalya Rudakova.

12.00 Rude Tube: Love Bytes. (R) 1.00 Stand Up for the Week. (R) 1.45 Film: The Fisher King. (1991) Drama, with Robin Williams and Jeff Bridges. 4.05 Smallville. (R) 4.45 St Elsewhere. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 10.15 Meerkat Manor. (R) 10.45 The Gadget Show: World Tour. (R) 11.45 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.45 War Hero in My Family. (R) 1.45 Film: Major Dundee. (1965) Western, starring Charlton Heston and Richard Harris. 4.10 Film: Return of the Seven. (1966) Western sequel, starring Yul Brynner, Robert Fuller and Warren Oates.

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 Ben Hur. A Jewish prince betrayed by his Roman friend and sold into slavery seeks revenge. Historical drama, starring Joseph Morgan, Ray Winstone and Stephen Campbell Moore. (R)

9.30 CSI: NY. Parts of a dismembered body are discovered on four street corners, triggering an investigation that eventually leads Mac and the team to suspect Russian mobsters may be responsible.

10.30 Live Boxing. Kid Galahad v Josh Wale. Coverage of the bout for the WBC International Super Bantamweight title at the Hillsborough Leisure Centre in Sheffield.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming offering viewers the chance to win cash on roulette, blackjack and autowheel. 4.00 Great Artists. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) 5.00 Hansa's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2

3.35 Holiday Showdown 4.35 One Direction: A Year in the Making 5.35 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 7.30 Film: The Scorpion King (2002) 9.15 The Planet's Funniest Animals 9.45 Nicki Minaj: The Hot Desk 10.00 Britain's Got More Talent Film 11.00 Celebrity Juice 11.45 Keith Lemon's LemonAid

ITV3

2.55 Wycliffe 4.00 Film: Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle (2003). Mystery, starring Angela Lansbury and Fionnula Flanagan. 5.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Lewis 11.00 A Touch of Frost

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings v Delhi DareDevils. 8.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights 9.30 Film: Jaws (1975)

BBC THREE

7.00 Doctor Who 8.05 Top Gear 9.15 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 10.00 Film: Con Air (1997). Action thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, John Malkovich and Steve Buscemi. 11.50 Family Guy

BBC FOUR

7.00 South Pacific 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of Africa 9.00 The Bridge 11.00 Parkinson: The Orson Welles Interview 11.40 Do We Really Need the Moon?

E4

3.05 Made in Chelsea 4.10 Charlie's Angels 5.05 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 Rules of Engagement 8.30 Happy Endings 9.00 Film: The Beach (2000) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory

FILM4

2.45 Carry On Cabby (1963) 4.35 Mighty Joe Young (1998) 6.45 The Princess Diaries (2001). Family comedy, starring Anne Hathaway. 9.00 John Tucker Must Die (2006) 10.45 Inglourious Basterds (2009)

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VERA
ITV1, 8pm
This time, Vera and DS Joe Ashworth are called to an army barracks, where they team up with Military Policewoman Shep. The body of commanding officer Devaney, known as Dev for short, has been found, and although it initially appears he's committed suicide, a closer inspection of the scene reveals he was murdered – but who wanted him dead? Vera decides Dev's close friends and loyal comrades Vince and Budgie may hold the key, although a link to Ollie, a soldier killed in Afghanistan, could also prove valuable as the net closes in on a murderer who may have been responsible for more than one death. Barbara Marten and Clare Calbraith guest star.

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 10.00pm). 3.15 Tiger – Spy in the Jungle. (R) 4.15 Points of View. 4.30 Final Score. 5.25 Songs of Praise.

6.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.25 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Exmoor.

7.25 The Voice UK Results. Tom Jones and Will.i.am lose two more acts each.

8.00 Planet Earth Live. Richard Hammond and Julia Bradbury continue the wildlife event following newborn baby animals across the world, from lion cubs in Kenya to bears in Minnesota. Continues Wednesday.

9.00 Death in Paradise. A voodoo priestess is found dead after predicting her own murder – and while the team thinks her prophecy has come true, Richard believes it is simply an old-fashioned killing. (R)

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Highlights from the final day of the Premier League season.

12.00 Film: Perfect Creature. (2006) Vampire thriller, starring Dougray Scott and Saffron Burrows. 1.20 Weatherview. 1.25 Sign Zone: Empire. (R) 2.25 Holby City. (R) 3.25 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.10 BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Great British Menu. (R) 12.00 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 12.45 Film: North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall, Kenneth More, Herbert Lom and Wilfrid Hyde White. 2.50 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Catalans Dragons v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.10pm). 5.15 Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix – Highlights.

6.00 BBC Young Musician 2012. Clemency Burton-Hill and Josie D'Arby present as the three finalists perform a concerto of their choice with the Northern Sinfonia at the Sage Gateshead. Last in the series.

8.00 Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. The adventurer travels from the south of Kenya to the Horn of Africa, along the way joining a Ugandan peace-keeping force in Mogadishu, the capital of war-torn Somalia.

9.00 Coast. New series. Investigating the lifestyles, history and legends of Britain.

10.00 The Lost World of the Seventies. Profiles of four colourful public figures in the 1970s.

11.00 Episodes. The sitcom Puckel premieres in America. (R)

11.30 Grandma's House. Simon arranges a visit to the therapist for Grandma. (R)

12.00 Film: Ae Fond Kiss. (2004) Romantic drama, starring Atta Yaqub and Eva Birthistle. 1.40 BBC News. 4.15 Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 Dinner Date. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 May the Best House Win. (R) 11.30 The Cube. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 1.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 2.30 Film: Colombo: Last Salute to the Commodore. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 4.30 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 5.30 You've Been Framed! (R)

6.00 Regional News; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 All Star Family Fortunes. Coronation Street's Samia Ghadie takes on former castmate Bill Tarmey. Last in the series.

7.30 Emmerdale. Zak is sectioned under the mental health act, and Lisa is forced to tell a shocked Debbie the truth about Cain's attack.

8.00 Vera. The detective investigates a suspicious death in an army barracks that was designed to look like a suicide, and uncovers a traumatic event that nobody wants to talk about.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 David Jason's Greatest Escapes. The actor examines wartime escapes that inspired films and dramas. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the semi-finals.

12.10 The Store; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 British Superbike Championship. Highlights. (R) 3.05 Motorsport UK. 3.55 ITV News. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.10 Saii Mali. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 FIA GT1 World Championship. 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 Sunday Brunch. 12.10 The Big Bang Theory. 12.40 The Big Bang Theory. 1.10 The Simpsons. (R) 1.40 The Simpsons. (R) 2.10 Film: Runaway Bride. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. 4.25 Deal or No Deal. 5.25 Time Team.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. A short film exploring views on whether technology should be used to determine the characteristics of genetically designed babies.

7.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal. Singer Peter Andre takes part in the game show, trying to guess the value of the mystery boxes and win up to £250,000 for his chosen charity.

8.00 FILM: The Twilight Saga: New Moon. (2009) Premiere. Vampire Edward leaves his human girlfriend Bella for her own safety, driving her into the arms of a werewolf. Romantic fantasy, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. (R)

10.35 FILM: Because I Said So. (2007) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Diane Keaton.

12.25 Film: Uski Roti. (1970) Drama, starring Garmy and Gurdeep Singh. 2.20 The Birthday. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.35 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowerbots. (R) 6.25 City of Friends. (R) 6.35 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.50 Castle Farm. (R) 6.55 Abby's Flying Fairy School. 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Family! (R) 7.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.45 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.35 Rupert Bear. (R) 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.10 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.20 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.35 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 10.00 Zoo Days. (R) 10.05 Grey's Anatomy. (R) 11.00 The Restaurant Inspector. (R) 12.00 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. 1.45 Film: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, with Sandra Bullock. 3.55 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) Comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. 5.35 Film: The Witches. (1990)

7.35 Ultimate Police Interceptors.

8.00 Once Upon a Time.

9.00 World's Scariest Animal Attacks.

9.55 5 News.

10.00 FILM: The Bone Collector. (1999) Thriller, starring Denzel Washington.

12.20 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. 4.50 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 5.00 Hansa's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2

3.40 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Britain's Got Talent Special 4.25 Britain's Got Talent – The Live Final 7.00 Britain's Got More Talent Final 8.00 Britain's Got More Talent: Funniest Moments 9.00 Benidorm 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.45 Film: Tomorrow Never Dies (1997)

ITV3

2.55 Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) 4.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Film: The American President (1995) 10.20 Agatha Christie's Marple

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Pune Warriors and Kings XI Punjab v Deccan Chargers. 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Police Academy (1984) 11.00 Film: The Kingdom (2007)

BBC THREE

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel 7.25 Film: 101 Dalmatians (1996) 9.00 Don't Tell the Bride USA 9.50 Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 Russell Howard's Good News

BBC FOUR

7.00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2010 8.00 Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity 9.00 Grand Prix: The Killer Years 10.00 Film: Apocalypto (2006)

E4

3.35 Glee 4.35 90210 5.35 The Big Bang Theory 6.35 Film: The Day After Tomorrow (2004) 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 2 Broke Girls 11.30 Made in Chelsea

FILM4

2.50 The Hindenburg (1975) 5.15 The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008). Fantasy adventure, starring Freddie Highmore. 7.05 The Truman Show (1998). Media satire, starring Jim Carrey. 9.00 Trading Places (1983) 11.20 Dead Man's Shoes (2004)

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer...

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News...

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning...

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 8.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed...

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with 12.10 5 News...

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer...

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News...

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning...

Channel 4 6.10 Sall Mall. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs...

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with 12.10 5 News...

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer...

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News...

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning...

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed...

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with 12.10 5 News...

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer...

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News...

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning...

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed...

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with 12.10 5 News...

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer...

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News...

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning...

Channel 4 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs...

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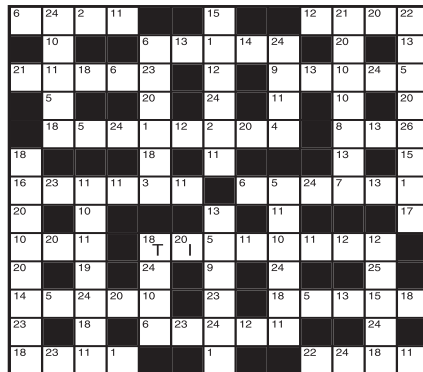
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	O	V	M	Y	N	X	T	J	C	I	G	U
E	Q	A	Z	S	K	H	D	P	F	L	R	B

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Double Crossword

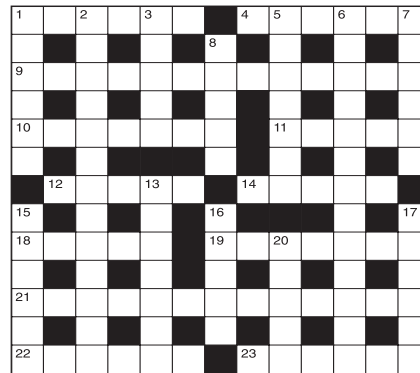
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- Across**
1. A man of the cloth (6)
 4. Showing variations in texture, like mended clothing (6)
 9. Forebodings before emotional feelings? (13)
 10. Go in for the competition again (2-5)
 11. Article by me may be developed into variations (5)
 12. As patterns they often need to be filled in (5)
 14. Distort the remainder, we hear (5)
 18. District without hills, lacking beauty (5)
 19. Shocking rows before Edward is defeated (7)
 21. Drill manuals? (8-5)
 22. Make things more difficult for the plumber? (6)
 23. Harmony in sound, maybe? Not quite (6)
- Down**
1. Take one's leave of French section (6)
 2. Old Testament philosophy involving the interchange of seers? (2,3,3,2,3)
 3. Carry out a put-up job - that's straight (5)
 5. Give me a term to make a piece of electrical apparatus (7)
 6. Talks over sanctions having broken down (13)
 7. They lack initiative, though they are positive in their assertions (3-3)
 8. Begin to make an involuntary movement (5)
 13. Restrict the movements of Maclean somehow (7)
 15. Don't contract to provide a sumptuous feast (6)
 16. Part of Alberta was hopelessly flooded (5)
 17. No pretentious air is raised by the inventor (6)
 20. Hood for a bird (5)

Quick Clues:

- Across**
1. Bosom (6)
 4. Inhuman (6)
 9. Eggheads (13)
 10. Delight (7)
 11. Result (5)
 12. Sham (5)
 14. Begin (5)
 18. Train (5)
 19. Denial (7)
 21. Obliging (13)
 22. Make certain (6)
 23. Heavenly body (6)
- Down**
1. Span (6)
 2. Excesses (13)
 3. Dense (5)
 5. Go back (7)
 6. Sin (13)
 7. Reduce (6)
 8. Intended (5)
 13. Plotter (7)
 15. Graze (6)
 16. Earlier (5)
 17. Slender (6)
 20. Weak (5)

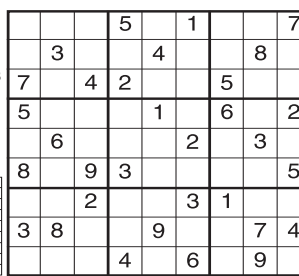


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Phrenologist; 7 Madly; 8 Toner; 9 Mat; 10 Thatcher; 11 Uphill; 12 Sandra; 15 Aftermath; 17 Act; 18 Orton; 19 Piton; 21 Unreasonable. Down: 1 Perambulator; 2 Nod; 3 Layman; 4 Gate-crash; 5 Sense; 6 Press attache; 7 Match; 10 Tolerance; 13 Drawn; 14 Campus; 16 Titan; 20 Tin. QUICK - Across: 1 Condemnatory; 7 Sweet; 8 Egg on; 9 Owl; 10 Reverse; 11 Repays; 12 Joyous; 15 Posthaste; 17 Din; 18 Eaves; 19 Raven; 21 Preservative. Down: 1 Cartographer; 2 Ere; 3 Nature; 4 Therefore; 5 Rogue; 6 Unreasonable; 7 Sleep; 10 Psychosis; 13 Olden; 14 Usurer; 16 Sever; 20 Via.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

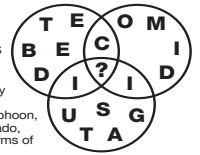
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 The letter represented by the question mark is N. Typhoon, tsunami, tornado, all extreme forms of weather.



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DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower and double bedroom. The property further benefits from gas fire, electric panel heating and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: No Pets: No Children: No Smokers: No
£375 PCM



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A two bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance with staircase to first floor, private entrance hall with store cupboard, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, allocated off road parking and bin store. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£375 PCM



BALLARAT WALK STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise Communal Entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, communal gardens and communal parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£385 PCM



GORDON CRESCENT BRIERLEY HILL

A recently refurbished spacious one bedroom ground floor flat situated in popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge with feature gas fire, Kitchen/Diner, inner hall, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from Double Glazing, Foregarden and Garage to rear. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: NO DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395 PCM



STATION ROAD OLDHILL

A purpose built one bedroom ground floor apartment. The accommodation comprises: Lounge, kitchen, Utility room, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having storage cupboards, gas fired central heating, off road parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395 PCM



SEYMOUR ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A two bedroom semi detached property with accommodation to comprise lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: YES CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO
£420 PCM



CROSSWALKS ROAD STOURBRIDGE

A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms & bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, central heating, garage and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: YES
£475 PCM



HUMBER GARDENS HALESOWEN

A well presented modern two bedroom starter home situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing throughout, gas fired central heating, front and rear gardens and allocated parking. Viewing is essential to appreciate. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£495 PCM



WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO
£500 PCM



HOLBOURNE HOUSE SEDGLEY

A very well presented one bedroom apartment in a newly developed block. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bath/shower room. There is secure parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: No PETS: No. DSS: No. SMOKERS: No.
£510 PCM



CRADLEY ROAD NETHERTON

A very well presented three bedroom detached property with accommodation to comprise: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating double glazing, garage and rear garden. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES
£525 PCM



HIGH STREET HARBOURNE

A Spacious two bedroom first floor flat situated in a busy High Street location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance Hall, Lounge area, kitchen area, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear terrace and rear access with staircase to first floor. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£525 PCM

BELLE VUE ROAD BRIERLEY HILL



A well presented three bedroom semi detached property in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear garden with parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED
 DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£575 PCM

JUNCTION STREET SOUTH



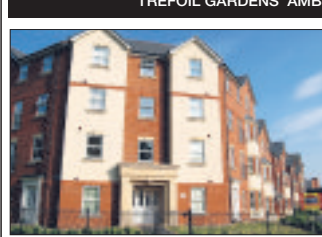
A very well presented three bedroom family home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, three Bedrooms and a utility area. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and rear garden. UNFURNISHED. Children: Yes DSS: May Consider Pets: May Consider. Smokers: No.
£575 PCM

TREFOIL GARDENS HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE



An extremely well presented two bedroom apartment (based on the third floor) situated on this popular residential development and close to Stourbridge Town Centre and Bus Networks. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO
£575 PCM

TREFOIL GARDENS AMBLECOTE



An excellent & spacious two bedroom third floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge two bedrooms master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further benefits from having communal grounds, gated car park and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£575 PCM

Old Worcester Road Hartlebury



A Delightful cottage set in a small village between Worcester & Kidderminster with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, lounge, dining room, Inner Hall, cloakroom, utility area, kitchen, bathroom, landing and two/three bedrooms. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, side patio area and off road parking. UNFURNISHED
 DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£650 PCM

WOODSTOCK CLOSE WORDSLEY



A three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating, rear patio and terrace, paved at the fore and detached garage to the rear. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£595 PCM

HEALE CLOSE HALESOWEN



A well presented three bedroom detached property situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs WC, kitchen, lounge/diner, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden with vehicular access and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£625 PCM

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GRANGE LANE WOLLESCOTE



A delightful Traditional Three Bedroom Detached property in a popular location and benefiting from Gas Central Heating, Large Rear Garden and Double (Tandem) Garage. The property further benefits from useful Off Road Parking to the fore, with patio area and lawn with mature shrubs, in the Large Garden. UNFURNISHED CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No
£745 PCM

ORMANDE CLOSE CRADLEY



An Exceptional well presented and spacious four bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, master with en-suite, guest cloaks room and bathroom. The property further boasts from having gas central heating, double glazing, garage, off road parking and front and rear gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO
£725 PCM

WOODGATE WAY BELBROUGHTON



A Well presented refurbished and deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached property situated in a much sought after residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£750 PCM

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Southall Farm, on the market for £1,195,000, sits in around 11 acres with glorious views and extensive accommodation including a character farmhouse, linked cottage, leisure and office annexes plus valuable outbuildings.

Set well out of sight from the road, the property has an impressive electric wrought iron gated entrance with lengthy driveway leading to the property and continuing into a private

courtyard. Ideal for an extended family, the farmhouse itself has 3/4 bedrooms, two bathrooms and three reception rooms, while the cottage has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, kitchen/diner and utility/WC.

There is also a splendid games room and leisure area - 35ft by 14ft.

Annexe

It has exposed beams and space for a full size snooker table and bar area, plus a separate linked annexe with office and sauna with shower and changing room.

With around four acres of formal parkland gardens to the front of the property interspersed with mature trees and shrubs, the land is bordered

in part by a brook and has been planted with more than 3,000 trees by the present owners.

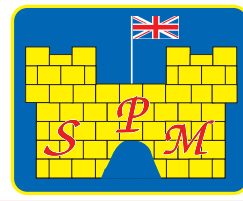
Behind the property lies a further six acres of pasture and various outbuildings, notably a pair of dry covered barns (each 64ft by 51ft approximately) and Dutch barn (74ft by 35ft) providing over 9,000 sq ft of storage, easily adaptable for equestrian needs or a host of other business or leisure related interests.

There are no near neighbours in what is a private setting, but Bewdley is less than 10 minutes drive away, and Birmingham city centre some 26 miles in the distance.

Contact Allan, Morris and Jones on 01562 747755 for more details.



A breakfast kitchen can be found at the hub of the property, situated at Button Bridge, which boasts glorious views



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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE

MOTING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

The new Peugeot hybrid is looking like a safe bet

"IT'S GOING to be a thoroughbred experience", was the intro at the start of a launch drive of the new Peugeot 508 RXH. Intriguing... then it hit me, we had to be doing something involving horses. And indeed we did.

By Sharon Walters

So what's the point of telling you that? - I hear you thinking.

Well all will be revealed and it was very pertinent to the latest cub out of the Peugeot stable.

The Peugeot 508 is already available in saloon and SW (estate) variants, and now, with the launch of this 508 RXH, it's available as a four-wheel drive, diesel-electric hybrid with taller suspension and a wider track to handle a little more rough stuff and low-grip situations - as we discovered on the drive.

There is also a mode where you can run the car purely on electric, and hence with zero emissions, as we did through two stables of valuable thoroughbred racehorses without causing them to twitch a nostril - and they're the first things to alert you to when a horse is not happy along with

the ears going back. It is powered by a 163bhp, 2.0-litre diesel engine and a 37bhp electric motor. On the road the Peugeot 508 Hybrid4 performs very well and is comfortable without being too staid.

While it might not be that quick out of the stalls compared to other rivals in its sector, it will sprint from 0-62mph in 9.5 seconds and it has a top speed of 130mph.

A drive around the roads of south Cheshire included busy towns where the stop/start system for the diesel engine proved very efficient, very quickly cutting the engine when you stop and starting equally quickly when you touch the accelerator to get going again. Fuel savings will be substantial and ever more important as cost continue to rise.

And you can also go around town using just the electric motor and onboard battery which, as mentioned before gives zero emissions, as we did around the stables.

We also tested out its sure-footedness by driving up alongside the gallops as the

horses were being exercised. It had been pouring with rain, there was a long, gradual but steep climb on deeply rutted grass, but the car positively centred up and at times even made a gallop.

This all means that the 508 RXH has a tax-related CO2 rating of 107g/km which makes it very attractive for company car drivers and fleet managers.

For private owners the low CO2 output means zero road tax for the first year and then £20 per year thereafter.

Incentive

Fuel economy claims look good and if they live up the figures claimed will prove a big incentive. Looks-wise, the 508 is crave and smooth and inside you get comfort and a quality finish.

The seats support your back well and the side supports are raised keeping you held firmly in place. The electric seats have plenty of adjustment which means you can get a perfect driving position and the standard specification is good including cruise control, parking aid and parallel parking guide, sat-nav and Bluetooth, a catalogue of safety features and Peugeot Connect SOS and Assistance. One brilliant feature, which



I also recently enjoyed on the Peugeot 3008, is the head-up display which makes it very easy to check your speed without taking your eyes off the road. The Peugeot 508 RXH Hybrid4 not only has a premium look and

feel to reflect its price tag, it is also a premium car. It is indeed a thoroughbred experience.

The range starts at £33,695, and rises to £36,000 for the Limited Edition.

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SPORT

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Five-star Hussain shines for Himley

HIMLEY'S cricketers are setting the early pace at the top of the Birmingham and District Premier Division.

Ashfaq Hussain and Greg Wright were the stand-out performers as the Stourbridge Road club edged to a two-wicket success at Wellington.

New signing Hussain shone with the ball as he bagged 5-32 to help restrict the hosts to 149-9.

Wright then notched a second successive half-century as Himley, with last man Dan Smith unable to bat after suffering an injury while bowling, took the spoils.

Walsall came out on top against reigning champions Bant Green. Tom Freeman claimed a five-wicket haul as Bant Green battled their way to 140-9.

A quickfire 49 from Jack Manuel gave Walsall a flying start before a mid-innings wobble left them 95-5. But teenagers Alex Christie (25 not out) and James Middleton (20) saw them home by two wickets.

Aaron Jeavons led Wolverhampton's victory charge against Knowle & Dorridge. Jeavons top-scored with 75 as Wolves overhauled K&D's 153 for the loss of six wickets.

Success

Kidderminster went down by 17 runs after being dismissed for 95 against Premier new-boys Berkswell.

Division One Wombourne piled up the runs with a 133-run success against Kenilworth Wardens.

Jon Smith (80), Michael Hill (35) and Dave Hemming (43 not out) helped Wombourne to 276-8. Steven Howard and Jack Biddulph then took three wickets each as Wardens fell for 143.

Halesowen are level on points with Brewrod at the top of Division Two following a 17-run success over Attock. Phil Croft was the star man for Halesowen, hitting 50 in his side's 139 and then taking 6-52.

Chris Guest made a stunning return to Fordhouses, taking 5-22 to help sink Harborne for 70.

Fordhouses lost just one wicket in knocking off the runs.

New-boys Penkridge tasted success thanks to a brilliant 104 not out from Rana Hassan which helped them overhaul Coleshill's 184-9 with five wickets to spare. Roger Weston had earlier bagged six wickets.

Dominant Dudley take out the Hitmen

DUDLEY took a huge stride towards the National League Knockout Cup semi-final after destroying rivals Buxton 54-36 on their own Hi-Edge track.

A spate of falls meant the Heathens trailed by four points to the Hitmen early on.

But they took charge as the meeting progressed and provided no fewer than 12 of the 15 heat winners.

Tom Perry was denied a five-rider maximum by home No.1 Robert Branford in the final heat, but the Heathens had firepower throughout the order.

Reserve Dan Greenwood - tipped pre-season by skipper Adam Roynon as a potential trump card for Dudley this year - had two wins in his eight points while James White-Williams contributed an eye-catching pair 11.

They also enjoyed success on Saturday, sharing the Staffordshire Cup with Stoke.

Dudley lost the second leg at Loomer Road 47-43 for an aggregate tie on 90 apace.

The Heathens battled hard to defend their slender four-point advantage from the first leg, and led by two overall going into the

Dudley Heathens

final race. All outcomes were possible but it was the draw that came up as Perry split the Richie Worrall/Ashley Birks combination.

Team boss Will Pottinger was delighted with the performance by his men.

"I was pleased with the way we put the hammer down in the second half of the meeting after being level after heat five," said Pottinger.

"The lads all came into the match after one ride each and it

was a good all-round team performance. We had plenty of 4-2s and 5-1s. Tom was in very good form obviously and Adam (Roynon) did well after his first-ride last place.

"We also had a really solid contribution from James White-Williams with paid 11, which was good to see, and also Dan Greenwood did well at reserve."

Byron Bekker took his place at Buxton despite suffering a heavy fall the day before at Stoke. Unfortunately, Bekker also took tumblers in the Knockout Cup clash.

"Byron has been unfortunate so far," said Pottinger. "But it was good to see him finish off with a win in his last ride and that gave him a bit of confidence."

Loomer Road scores. Stoke: Ben Read 14+3, Richie Worrall 14+1, Ashley Birks 10+1, Tony Adkin 6, Rhys Naylor 2+1, Ross Walter 1, Jaimie Pickard 0.

Dudley: Tom Perry 10, Ashley Morris 8, Tim Webster 7, James White-Williams 6+3, Darryl Ritching 5, Byron Bekker 4+1, Dan Greenwood 2+1.

Hi-Edge scores. Buxton: Robert Branford 12, Luke Priest 6+1, Adam McKinna 6, Dean Felton 5+1, Ryan Blacklock 5+1, Richard Andrews 2+1, Michael Neale 0.

Dudley: Tom Perry 13+1, Adam Roynon 11, James White-Williams 8+3, Dan Greenwood 8, Ashley Morris 7, Byron Bekker 4, Darryl Ritchings 3.

Cookley success at top of the tables

THANKS to a mixture of good performances and weather affecting other games, both Cookley Worcestershire County league sides top their respective divisions after victories.

Chaddeley Garbet (1pt) 98.
Cookley (20pts) 59-4.

Cookley won by six wickets Cookley firsts took a comfortable six-wicket win against their local rivals.

Skipper Gary Mills had the unusual experience of winning a coin toss.

His decision to field was justified as Jace Hemmings took 3-29 and Ryan Parker 3-31 as the visitors were dismissed for 98.

Cookley started solidly in reply, opener Simon Cook making 26, before an unbeaten 24 from Mark Bennett guided them home.

Cookley (24pts) 119.
Enville (4pts) 89.

Cookley won by 30 runs

At Enville the seconds were victorious despite a collapse sparked by a Jack Taylor golden duck and the wily bowling of Paul Moran, who took 6-31.

Ricky Keernan's six-hitting at No.11, where he made 19, took the score to a modest 120.

But the total proved to be enough as Enville succumbed to St Kirby's fine 5-33 to win by 30 runs.

Judo twins eclipse the mat rivals

KIDDERMINSTER judo twins Sally and Rachel Moon each bagged a medal at the Northern Ireland Open in Belfast, a home country open ranking points event.

They travelled with five other members of Wolverhampton Judo Club and between them managed to bring home nine medals.

Rachel Moon won gold in the juniors under-78kg category, beating all her opponents. The ranking points won leave her equal second in the Great Britain junior squad.

Sally Moon competed in the under-70kg juniors event and battled well to get to the final. There she narrowly missed out on gold, but did take silver.

Her ranking points put her third in her category in the GB juniors.

Stour swimmers at the double to win league

STOURBRIDGE Swimming Club's A and B teams earned a double triumph in the final of the Worcester Winter League.

The B Team were hot favourites going into their final at Droitwich and duly delivered, finishing six points clear of their nearest rivals Oldbury.

But just one point separated the top four teams in the A section going into the final and Stourbridge won a nailbiting contest by three points to take the title.

Team captains for the night, Rich Spoor and Becki Cole, lifted the league shield on behalf of their Stourbridge team-mates.

Nat Dingley had a double victory in fly and freestyle, while Cole did likewise in fly and backstroke and Spoor followed suit on the free and breaststroke.

Maximum

Britt Horton won two individual backstroke events in her own age group and the one above.

Maximum points also went to freestylers Ellie Wood and Adam Horton, backstroker Alex Westwood and breaststroker Aaron Costigan.

The open medley relay team snatched victory after a hard-fought battle to the finish, with Scott Allin hammering the last length and taking maximum points.

B team captains for the night, Hannah Williams and Josh Quinton, received the trophy on behalf of the side.

Individual B team winners included Lauren Sanders who was unbeaten on the night in both backstroke and breaststroke.

Swimming

Shane Hazell and Tom Parker won the freestyle event, Mike Sedgley and Aimee Sanders won backstroke, Matt McCallum and Megan Dudley took butterfly honours and Ed Maycock and Sam Matthews powered to breaststroke victory.

Relay sides taking top spot were the 13s, 15s and open medley teams with the 15s freestyle team also being unbeaten on the night.

Head coach Stew Nicklin said: "Having both teams in top spot is an amazing achievement and thoroughly deserved by all those involved."

"We knew we had some tough opposition but the sheer determination of Stourbridge's swimmers came through."

"I would like to congratulate each and every one of them - their hard work and dedication has paid off."

The club are currently looking for new members aged six or over.

For more details visit www.stourswim.co.uk or call Stew on 07834 689178.

Clubs' activity day helps with development



Swimmers at the development day in Coventry learn about posture during their training session

STOURBRIDGE Swimming Club joined forces with Worcester SC to stage a swimming development day.

The clubs created a day of activities at Coventry for more than 100 mixed age and ability swimmers. It included a warm-up session, two-hour pool set including starts and turns, then two

afternoon classes held by England Talent on racing nutrition and hydration, plus land training core muscle work, injury prevention and posture.

Clubs that attended included Pershore, Evesham and Oldbury.

The day was not aimed solely at swimmers, but also at the develop-

ment of coaches, sharing of ideas and mentoring those wishing to pursue their interest in coaching.

Organisers hope to eventually cover all aspects of swimming, enabling swimmers to build up personal fitness and knowledge of how they can progress.

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Hurrah for Hussain
Five wickets as new signing inspires his team to victory
Page 39

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Heathens star now a wizard from Oz

HEATHENS boss Will Pottinger believes the club are reaping the benefits of Tom Perry's winter trip to Australia.

The British Under-21 runner-up's super start to the season continued with two more double-figure returns in away matches at Stoke and Buxton over the weekend.

And that followed a performance for Somerset against Leicester on Friday which had Rebels bosses singing his praises too.

Perry dropped only one point at the Hi-Edge Raceway as Heathens made themselves overwhelming favourites to reach the last four of the Knockout Cup.

It would have taken a reversal of epic proportions had they lost an 18-point first leg advantage in the second leg which was due to take place at Monmore on Tuesday.

Pottinger said: "Going to Australia has made a world of difference to Tom. It's also helping him to get things right in the Premier League, and it's definitely made him sharper out of the starts."

Turners
"Jan O (Pedersen) has been working with him on his gating, and he's also changed engine tuners and found something that's working out better for him."

One disappointment for Perry came this week when he was among three members of Great Britain's under-21 squad to be cut for the five-strong World Cup semi-final team to face Australia, Denmark and the Czech Republic on May 27.

But joint team boss Phil Morris reckons he can be the man for future seasons.

"For Tom Perry, and Jason Garrity, they have got years ahead of them. They can be the next generation."

Match reports - Page 39

Injured Spencer out of contest

BRIERLEY HILL'S Kyle Spencer has pulled out of his welterweight contest at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday night through injury.

Spencer injured his neck in training last week and trainer Shaun Cooper made the decision to withdraw his fighter from the bill.

The unbeaten 22-year-old faced a test in tough Brummie Andrew Patterson, who has also been scrubbed from the line-up.

Cannock's Dave Egan has replaced Spencer but Patterson is from Egan's gym, so a new opponent will be found.

The tooth doesn't hurt for Glassboys

by Craig Birch

STOURBRIDGE have struck a deal worth "several thousand pounds" to continue their relationship with Bhandal Dental Practices for next season.

The West Midlands company, which has a practice in Lye, has been upgraded from sponsors of the first-team shirts to all of the club's sportswear.

Bhandal has already received significant exposure from the Glassboys' FA Cup run last season, which brought widespread national attention.

Gary Hackett's men played Football League sides Plymouth and Stevenage in

their run to the second round and harbour ambitions of promotion.

"They only missed out on a play-off spot in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier League in the final fixture of the season and hope to challenge again.

Their cause will be aided by the financial backing of Bhandal who, in return, will have the firm's name emblazoned on the strips of all 16 of the club's teams.

That includes the first team, their Midland Floodlight Youth League outfit and

the six junior teams who compete in the Midland Premier Leagues on Saturday mornings.

A further six junior teams play on Sundays in the Stourbridge and District League.

The club also have two girls teams in the Central Warwickshire Football League.

Vice-chairman Andy Pountney said: "It is very important when building the infrastructure of a football club that you try and get as much backing in as you can.

"With the support of the Bhandal deal, it does take some of the pressure off and allows

us to have a strong foundation to build the club on.

"It also confirms that we will not be resting on our laurels after the season we have just experienced.

"We aim to build on the support and profile we have generated from the FA Cup run and our strong showing in the league next season.

"I would also like to add a big thank you from everyone at the club to all the supporters, sponsors and everybody who has been connected with the club over the last season."

Langford gets set for that final bow

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD will say goodbye to long-serving Ian Langford as the flanker takes his curtain call in the North Midlands Cup final on Sunday.

The 36-year-old will retire after 17 seasons of service to the club, as DK's campaign ends with the chance of silverware at home to holders Newport.

DK have already been promoted to the National Division Two North and could make it a double - but Langford won't be a part of next season's charge.

The veteran is calling it a day after 380 first team appearances and more than 80 tries for the club and will hope to add to that tally on Sunday.

With DK staging the tie, Langford will get the chance to sign off in front of the home supporters and a rousing reception is expected at Heathbrook.

And player-coach Jon Higgins is among those to pay tribute to one of the cornerstones of the club in the modern era.

He said: "You can clearly see the impact Ian has on the team and he's been playing for the first team for many years.

"He's really going to be missed when he retires."

Rain stops play for Amblecote

RAIN meant Amblecote and Wollaston's first team game with Astwood Bank and seconds' clash with Bromsgrove were both abandoned without a ball being bowled on Saturday.

The firsts travel to Claverley this Saturday while the seconds host the reverse fixture.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, May 10, 2012.

STOUR'S SECOND WIN KEEPS THEM ON TOP

Stourbridge 174-9, Streeley 109. Stourbridge won by 65 runs
STOURBRIDGE firsts notched up their second consecutive win, beating Streeley at home to stay top of Division Three in the Birmingham & District League.

The 24 points consolidate a dream start for the men of the Memorial Ground, Amblecote. Put in on a grassy wicket, Stour were in dire straits at 5-2 after losing openers Matt Bradley and Alex Bingham to lifting deliveries.

But Audy Alexander (36), Richard Bradley (57) and Josh Banks (49) got them back in contention.

Skipper Bradley put on 59 with Alexander and was dismissed with the score on 131. He was caught off the bowling of Richard Slatem.

Banks fell on 170 as Slatem finished with 4-43 off 14 overs, Stour batting sensibly to see through their 55 allocated overs.

Spin
After tea, opening spells from Matt Bradley and Jitesh Patel ripped through the Streeley top order to leave them 25-4 with Andrew Lloyd (6), Sam Bates (12), Craig Moore (1), and James Hunt (2) all back in the pavilion.

Resistance came from Shaun Findlay (31), Rus Guy (24) and Neil Curtis (20). Pace gave way to spin from both ends once Dave Jones had removed the threatening Findlay.

Alexander's leg spin put an end to promising knocks from skipper Guy and Neil Curtis.

Two more wickets for Alexander ended the opposition's hopes and they were all out for 109 in the 37th over. Alexander ended with 4-13 to add to his 4-53 against Aston Manor in the opening match.

But Bandurak admitted he needed to "give himself a talking to" after a disappointing front nine.

He said: "I was three over par after nine holes; I three-putted eight and nine.

"I gave myself a good talking to and made a three at the par-five 10th.

"Then I collected another couple of birdies."



Stourbridge skipper Richard Bradley turns a ball through the on side in his side's comfortable win over Streeley

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